

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A continuous media playback system controlled over a distributed communication system comprising:

at least one playback control device ~~that is located at a playback location, the at least one playback control device that is connected to a~~ operably connectable to said distributed communications system and ~~that includes including~~ an output device, memory to store digital media files and a continuous play program, and a controller to ~~control the output of~~ said digital media files to said output device according to said continuous play program, wherein said ~~digital~~ media files include at least one media file of a type selected from the group consisting of audio, video and announcements;

~~wherein a computer is remotely located from said playback location is remotely located from a computer that is configured to communicate and communicates~~ with said distributed communications system; and

~~wherein a web server is located remotely from said computer and is connected to said computer is operably connectable to a remotely located web server via said distributed communications system, said web server for serving digital media files from a master library and to a master library of said digital media files, wherein said computer includes a user interface that allows configured to allow~~ a playback manager to access said web server via said distributed communications system to modify said continuous play program for each playback control device; and

wherein said computer is provided with one or more executable files from said web server to allow said playback manager to select one or more media files for audition without affecting said continuous play program.

2. (Currently Amended) The continuous media playback ~~play-broadcast~~ system of claim 1,

wherein said computer ~~includes-is configured to include~~ a browser module for accessing said web server and wherein said web server ~~transmits-is configured to transmit~~ executable files to said computer for creating said continuous play program.

3. (Currently Amended) The continuous ~~media playback play-broadcast-system~~ of claim 2, wherein said executable files include one or more executable files of at least one type selected from the group consisting of ActiveX® components, Java Applets® and Java Script®.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The continuous ~~media playback play-broadcast-system~~ of claim 2, wherein said executable files are configured to allow said computer to select and arrange custom playlists by selecting a plurality of said digital media files from said master library and by allowing at least one of sequencing said digital media files and randomly playing said digital media files.

6. (Currently Amended) The continuous ~~media playback play-broadcast-system~~ of claim 2, wherein said executable files are configured to allow said computer to select a plurality of predetermined collections of said digital media files, to allocate percentages of time for playing said collections and to create a composite collection ~~by that randomly selecting~~ selects said digital media files from said collections based on said allocated percentages.

7. (Currently Amended) The continuous ~~media playback play-broadcast-system~~ of claim 6, wherein said executable files are configured to allow said computer to select at least one of said digital media files within said predetermined collections and to adjust the frequency at which said at least one of said digital media files is played in said composite collection.

8. (Currently Amended) The continuous ~~media playback play-broadcast-system~~ of claim 6, wherein said executable files are configured to allow said computer to select at least one of said digital media files within said predetermined collections and to prevent said at least one of said

digital media files from playing in said composite collection.

9. (Currently Amended) The continuous media playback play-broadcast-system of claim 6, wherein said executable files are configured to allow said computer to select at least one of said digital media files within said predetermined collections and to prevent said at least one of said digital media files from playing during preselected times in said composite collection.

10. (Currently Amended) The continuous media playback play-broadcast-system of claim 6, wherein said executable files are configured to allow said computer to assign said predetermined collections to a time-based schedule ~~that forms~~forming part of said continuous play program.

11. (Currently Amended) The continuous media playback play-broadcast-system of claim 10, wherein said executable files are configured to allow said computer to assign said composite collection to said time-based schedule.

12. (Currently Amended) The continuous media playback play-broadcast-system of claim 10, wherein a smallest time unit provided in said time-based schedule can be varied.

13. (Currently Amended) The continuous media playback play-broadcast-system of claim 12, wherein said executable files are configured to allow said computer to select and arrange custom collections by allowing at least one of selecting a plurality of said digital media files from said master library and by sequencing said digital media files and randomly playing said digital media files.

14. (Currently Amended) The continuous media playback play-broadcast-system of claim 2, wherein said executable files are configured to allow said computer to access continuous play programs for a plurality of said playback control devices.

15. (Currently Amended) The continuous media playback play-broadcast-system of claim 14, wherein said executable files are configured to allow said computer to group at least two

playback control devices and to create a common continuous play program for said at least two of said playback control devices.

16. (Currently Amended) The continuous ~~media playback play-broadcast-system~~ of claim 2, wherein said executable files are configured to allow said computer to display a digital media file ~~that is currently being played~~ by at least one of said at least one playback control devices and at least one digital media file ~~that follows~~following said currently played digital media file ~~that is currently being played~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The continuous ~~media playback play-broadcast-system~~ of claim 16, wherein said web server ~~delivers~~ is configured to deliver at least one digital media file to said computer as a streaming media file for output to said output device connected to said computer.

18. (Currently Amended) The continuous ~~media playback play-broadcast-system~~ of claim 1, wherein said web server ~~stores~~ is configured to store a profile for each playback control device.

19. (Currently Amended) The continuous ~~media playback play-broadcast-system~~ of claim 2, wherein said executable files are configured to allow said computer to select business hours to operate each playback control device.

20. (Currently Amended) The continuous ~~media playback play-broadcast-system~~ of claim 2, wherein said web server ~~includes~~ is configured to include a password logon security module for accessing said continuous play programs.

21. (Currently Amended) The continuous ~~media playback play-broadcast-system~~ of claim 2, wherein said master library further ~~contains~~ comprises at least one file of a type selected from the group ~~consisting of~~including digital announcement files, video files, and text/graphics files.

22. (Currently Amended) The continuous ~~media playback play-broadcast-system~~ of claim 21, wherein said executable files are configured to allow said computer to schedule at least one

of said digital announcement files in said continuous play broadcast of each playback control device.

23. (Currently Amended) The continuous ~~media playback play-broadcast-system~~ of claim 22, wherein said executable files are configured to allow said computer to schedule at least one file of a type selected from the group ~~consisting of~~including said digital announcement files and said video files in said continuous play broadcast of each playback control device on a recurring basis.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of programming at least one playback control device located at a playback location in a continuous media playback system controlled over a distributed communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

accessing a web site via ~~a~~the distributed communications system using a user interface of a computer including a web browser, the computer located ~~that~~ are remote from said web site and ~~that are remotely located from said playback location;~~

accessing and arranging at least one of digital media files and predetermined collections of said digital media files to create or modify a continuous play program for said playback control device via said web site, wherein said media files include at least one file of a type selected from the group ~~consisting of~~including audio, video and announcements; and

permitting a user to access one or more digital media files using said user interface to audition the one or more digital media files without affecting the continuous play program;

~~wherein each playback control device is connected to said distributed communications system.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
transmitting executable files from said web server to said computer for creating said continuous play program.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said executable files include one or more executable files of at least one type selected from the group consisting of ActiveX® components, Java Applets®, and Java Script®.
27. (Cancelled)
28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of:
selecting and arranging custom playlists by selecting a plurality of said digital media files from a master library and by allowing at least one operation selected from the group consisting of sequencing said digital media files and randomly playing said digital media files.
29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising the steps of:
selecting a plurality of predetermined collections of said digital media files;
allocating percentages of time for playing said collections; and
creating a composite collection ~~by that~~ randomly ~~selecting~~ selects said digital media files from said predetermined collections based on said allocated percentages.
30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:
selecting at least one of said digital media files within said predetermined collections; and
adjusting the frequency at which said at least one of said digital media files is played in said composite collection.
31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of:
allow said computer to select at least one of said digital media files within said predetermined collections; and
preventing said at least one of said digital media files from playing in said composite collection.
32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of:
selecting at least one of said digital media files within said predetermined collections; and

preventing said at least one of said digital media files from playing during preselected times of at least one of a day, a month and a year in said composite collection.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
assigning said predetermined collections to a time-based schedule ~~that forms~~ forming part of said continuous play program.
34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
assigning said composite collection to said time-based schedule.
35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~ providing a smallest time unit in said time-based schedule; and allowing said smallest time unit to be varied.
36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
selecting and arranging custom playlists by selecting a plurality of said digital media files from a master library using said computer and by allowing at least one of sequencing said digital media files using said computer and randomly playing said digital media files.
37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
allowing said computer to access continuous play programs for a plurality of said playback control devices using said executable files.
38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~
grouping at least two playback control devices; and
creating a common continuous play program for said at least two playback control devices.
39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising ~~the step of:~~
displaying a digital audio file ~~that is~~ currently being played by at least one playback

control device; and

displaying at least one digital audio file ~~that follows following~~ said currently played digital media file ~~that is currently being played~~.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising ~~the step of~~:
delivering at least one digital media file to said computer as a streaming media file for output to an output device connected to said computer.
41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said web server stores a profile for each playback control device.
42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said executable files allow said computer to select business hours to operate each playback control device.
43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said web server includes password logon security for accessing said continuous play programs.
44. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~either claim 28 or claim 36~~, wherein said master library contains at least one of digital announcement files and audio files.
45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said executable files allow said computer to schedule at least one of said digital announcement files in said continuous play program of each playback control device.
46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said executable files allow said computer to schedule at least one of said digital announcement files in said continuous play broadcast of each playback control device on a recurring basis.

47. (Currently Amended) The continuous media playback play-broadcast-system of claim 1, wherein said computer creates or modifies continuous play programs for a plurality of said playback control devices.

48. (Currently Amended) The continuous media playback play-broadcast-system of claim 1, wherein said computer groups at least two playback control devices and creates a common continuous play program for said at least two playback control devices.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising creating or modifying continuous play programs for a plurality playback control devices using said computer.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
grouping at least two playback control devices; and
creating a common continuous play program for said at least two playback control devices.

51. (Currently Amended) The continuous media playback play-broadcast-system of claim 1, wherein each playback control device includes a master library of digital media files.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein each playback control device includes a library of digital media files.

53. (Currently Amended) The continuous media playback play-broadcast-system of claim 2, wherein said executable files permit said computer to control playback volume for said continuous play program.

54. (Currently Amended) The continuous media playback play-broadcast-system of claim 53, wherein said executable files permit said computer to control said playback volume as a function of at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of: time, type of location, and area within a type of location.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising,
controlling playback volume for said continuous play program.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein said controlling playback volume comprises controlling playback volume as a function of at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of: time, type of location, and area within a type of location.

57. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The continuous media playback system of claim 1, controlled over a distributed communication system comprising:

~~——— at least one playback control device that is located at a playback location, that is connected to a distributed communications system and that includes an output device, memory to store digital media files and a continuous play program, and a controller to output said digital media files to said output device according to said continuous play program, wherein said media files include at least one media file of a type selected from the group consisting of audio, video and announcements;~~

~~——— wherein a computer is remotely located from said playback location and communicates with said distributed communications system; and~~

~~——— wherein a web server is located remotely from said computer and is connected to said distributed communications system and to a master library of said digital media files, wherein said computer includes a user interface that allows a playback manager to access said web server via said distributed communications system to modify said continuous play program for each playback control device;~~

wherein said computer is provided with one or more executable files from said web server to allow said playback manager to adapt said continuous play program with schedules corresponding to different days and sets of days within a year.

58. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein said master library contains at least one of digital announcement files and audio files.